

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as shown below. Please cancel claims 20-32. Please add new claim 33. The pending claims are then believed to be as follows:

1. (Amended) An orthopedic composition, comprising a homogeneous mixture of a biocompatible polymer, and a bioactive particulate ceramic, said ceramic having an average particle size of not more than about 500 nm; and one or more growth factors, wherein said growth factor is present in an amount of no more than about 5 weight percent.
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein at least about 30% of said particulate ceramic has an average particle size of not more than about 100 nm.
3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said ceramic has an average particle size of about 100 nm.
4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said ceramic has an average particle size of about 1 nm to about 500 nm
5. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein said ceramic has an average particle size of about 1 nm to about 100 nm
6. (Original) The composition of claim 5, wherein said ceramic has an average particle size of about 1 nm to about 50 nm.
7. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises about 1% to about 49% by volume of said ceramic and about 51% to about 99% by weight of said polymer.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is comprised predominantly of said polymer.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said polymer is selected from a resorbable polymer and a non-resorbable polymer.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said polymer comprises polyetheretherketone, polyethylene, polymethylmethacrylate, poly(L-lactide), poly(D,L-lactide), poly(L-co-D,L-lactide), polyglycolide, poly(lactide-co-glycolide), poly(hydroxylbutyrate), poly(hydroxyvalerate), tyrosine-derived polycarbonate and combinations thereof.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said particulate ceramic is selected from bioactive glass and a calcium-containing ceramic.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 11, wherein said calcium-containing ceramic is a calcium phosphate-containing ceramic.

13. (Original) The composition of claim 12, wherein said calcium phosphate-containing ceramic is comprised of hydroxyapatite.

14. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said homogeneous mixture is obtained by processing the ceramic, the polymer or a combination thereof, with carrier solvents.

15. (Original) A shaped, article formed from the composition of claim 1.

16. (Original) The article of claim 15, wherein said shaped article is a load bearing member.

17. (Original) The article of claim 16, wherein said member is an intervertebral disc implant.

18. (Original) The article of claim 16, wherein said article is shaped to form a structure selected from the group consisting of bone plates, bone screws and a load bearing intervertebral disc implant.

19. (Original) A bone cement formed from the composition of claim 1.

20-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Newly added) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said growth factor comprises one or more members selected from the group consisting of: bone morphogenetic protein, LIM mineralization proteins (LMPs), transforming growth factors, insulin-like growth factors, platelet-derived growth factors, and fibroblast growth factors.